

We claim:

1. A method of treating a nonwoven fabric comprising:

- 5           a. providing a nonwoven fabric having an air permeability greater than about  
            90 m<sup>3</sup>/min/m<sup>2</sup> at a surface pressure differential of 1.27 cm of water as  
            measured by ASTM D 737-96; and
- b. saturating the nonwoven fabric with an aqueous composition comprising  
            odor sorbing particles.

10       2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric has an air permeability  
          greater than about 100 m<sup>3</sup>/min/m<sup>2</sup> at a surface pressure differential of 1.27 cm of  
          water as measured by ASTM D 737-96 prior to saturating the nonwoven fabric  
          with an aqueous composition comprising odor sorbing particles.

15       3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric that is provided can remove  
          less than 70 mg pyridine odor per gram of untreated nonwoven fabric before  
          saturating the nonwoven fabric with an aqueous composition comprising odor  
          sorbing particles.

20       4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the odor sorbing particles are selected from the  
          group consisting of carbon particles, activated carbon particles, treated activated  
          carbon particles, untreated activated carbon particles, zeolite particles, silica  
          particles, alumina particles and mixtures thereof.

25       5. The method of Claim 1, wherein aqueous composition further comprises a  
          polymeric binder.

30       6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the polymeric binder is selected from the group  
          consisting of latex binders, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, copolymers of  
          acrylates, copolymers of methacrylates, styrene-butadiene copolymers, styrene-  
          acrylic copolymers, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, nitrile rubbers,  
          acrylonitrile-butadiene copolymers and polyvinyl alcohol binders.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein aqueous composition comprises at least about

10 weight percent of a styrene-acrylic copolymer binder and at least about 10 weight percent of activated carbon particles.

5 8. A nonwoven fabric suitable for filtration purposes, the nonwoven fabric comprising at least 10 weight percent of sorbent particles relative to the weight of the nonwoven fabric and having an air permeability of at least  $40 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}/\text{m}^2$  at a surface pressure differential of 1.27 cm of water as measured by ASTM D 737-96 and is capable of removing at least 70 mg of pyridine odor per gram of nonwoven fabric as measured by the Odor Removal Test.

10 9. The nonwoven fabric of Claim 8, wherein the sorbent particles do not rub off during normal use.

15 10. The nonwoven fabric of Claim 8 having an air permeability of at least  $60 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}/\text{m}^2$  at a surface pressure differential of 1.27 cm of water as measured by ASTM D-737-96 and capable of removing at least 75 mg of pyridine odor per gram of nonwoven fabric as measured by the Odor Removal Test.

20 11. The nonwoven fabric of Claim 8, wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises a bonded carded web of fibers.

12. The nonwoven fabric of Claim 8, wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises a bonded carded web of bicomponent fibers and cellulosic fibers.

25 13. The nonwoven fabric of Claim 8, wherein the sorbent particles comprise activated carbon particles.

30 14. A face mask comprising an inner facing layer, a filtration layer and a nonwoven fabric layer treated by saturating the nonwoven fabric layer with an aqueous composition comprising odor sorbing particles.

15. The face mask of Claim 14, wherein the nonwoven fabric layer treated by saturating the nonwoven fabric layer with an aqueous composition comprising odor sorbing particles is the outer facing layer of the face mask and the filtration

layer is disposed between the inner facing layer and the nonwoven fabric layer treated by saturating the nonwoven fabric layer with an aqueous composition comprising odor sorbing particles.

5        16. The face mask of Claim 14 further comprising an outer facing layer wherein the nonwoven fabric layer treated by saturating the nonwoven fabric layer with an aqueous composition comprising odor sorbing particles is disposed between the filtration layer and the outer facing layer of the face mask.

10       17. The face mask of Claim 16 further comprising a fluid resistant layer.

15       18. The face mask of Claim 17 wherein the fluid resistant layer is disposed between the nonwoven fabric layer treated by saturating the nonwoven fabric layer with an aqueous composition comprising odor sorbing particles and the inner facing layer of the face mask.

19. The face mask of Claim 17, wherein the fluid resistant layer is an apertured film.

20       20. A face mask comprising  
          an inner facing layer,  
          a filtration layer comprising a meltblown nonwoven structure,  
          an odor sorbing layer that comprises a bonded carded web treated with an aqueous composition comprising at least 10 weight percent of a styrene-acrylic copolymer binder and at least about 10 weight percent of activated carbon particles  
25       wherein the treated bonded carded web has an air permeability of at least 120 m<sup>3</sup>/min/m<sup>2</sup> at a surface pressure differential of 1.27 cm of water as measured by ASTM D 737-96, and  
          an outer facing layer.

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